

The omnibus bill funds the National Endowment for the Humanities at the current level, which is higher than either the House or Senate number in the original Interior appropriations bill. NEH programs provide vital support to scholarship, education, and public programs in history, literature, and other aspects of the humanities. Support for our State humanities councils is particularly important because it is these generally small offices in each State that expand access to the humanities and that allows for a focus on local history, local literature, and local culture. They serve the very important function of helping us understand who and what we are.

The bill also funds the National Endowment for the Arts at its current level. NEA programs support our many performing arts' companies throughout the United States and our museums and also help fund the State arts councils.

In both instances I wish we had been able to provide additional funding but there will be an opportunity to revisit these programs next year.

LABOR-HHS

I am pleased about the increase in funding over the House and Senate levels for educational technology. I share some of the conferees' concerns over the educational technology program and believe that increased efforts must be undertaken to insure that technology advances learning and curriculum goals and that we understand how technology contributes to improved student performance. Over the years, we have come to understand that students' learning patterns may vary widely; technology offers us the opportunity to consider and to respond to the various ways in which an individual learns.

Of vital importance to Nebraska is the Impact Aid Program. Our commitment to militarily impacted and Native American districts is a Federal obligation; in fact, by shirking our responsibility to these districts, we create yet another unfunded Federal mandate. For fiscal year 1997, we were able to increase funding by \$37 million over fiscal year 1996 to \$730 million for Impact Aid districts, including additional funding for our heavily impacted, section F districts, such as Bellevue.

Equally important, this year's appropriations bill includes increased funding for the title I and Safe and Drug-Free Schools programs, both of which have proven to be successful programs here in Nebraska for the benefit of our students. Title I for disadvantaged students receives a \$470 million increase over fiscal year 1996 which brings the total for fiscal year 1997 to \$7.7 billion. This will enable us to serve nearly a half million more children. Safe and Drug Free Schools—a program for which I have heard many accolades from Nebraska educators and administrators—receives an additional \$90 million over 1996 funding, for a total of \$556 million.

Increasingly, concern exists among both students and their parents regarding escalating college costs. We are providing increased funding which will allow 3.8 million students to receive aid while also increasing the maximum award level to \$2,700, a \$230 increase. For fiscal year 1997, a total of \$7.6 billion will be available for student financial assistance—\$1.3 billion above the previous year's appropriations.

Job training efforts will also benefit from increased funding levels. I am especially pleased to see Summer Youth Employment and Training funded at \$871 million. This program provides vital funding for youth summer jobs.

I am also pleased to see that the Health Careers Opportunity Program was funded at \$26.8 million—an increase of nearly \$3 million over fiscal year 1996. This award goes to medical schools and other medical professional training programs that recruit and train minority and disadvantaged students.

TREASURY-POSTAL

We were able to include funding, which the House had rescinded, for the National Archives for an on-line, interactive data base available via the World Wide Web. It provides unprecedented access to the National Archives' vast holdings. The National Archives holds a rich and priceless resource that, until now, has had limited access for a relatively small number of people. I feel strongly that information held by government at all levels should become more accessible and usable by the average American citizen. The treasures maintained by the National Archives should be accessible to all Americans—not just researchers who reside near College Park, MD, or those individuals who can afford a trip to Washington, DC or those who are fortunate to have a Federal archives facility located in their State.

The increase of methamphetamine use in the Midwest is a serious problem. I am pleased to see that this bill includes \$8 million to designate the Midwest States of Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, and Kansas as a high-intensity drug trafficking area [HIDTA]. This designation will provide added law enforcement resources to these Midwest States and will allow law enforcement officials in these states to conduct a coordinated tracking and enforcement effort.

Mr. President, let me restate my disappointment in the process that accompanied this spending bill. I firmly believe that every program and project that is funded with taxpayer dollars deserves the full scrutiny of all Americans, and should not be conducted in back-room negotiations. Two of the bills included in this package—those funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State—were never considered on the Senate floor. Further, funding legislation for the Department of the Treasury and the Post-

al Service as well as the Department of Interior were partially considered, but never finished.

Indeed, Members of this body—from both sides of the aisle—were denied the opportunity to offer pertinent, important amendments to these funding bills or to be heard simply because the process of debate and discussion was brought to an abrupt end and replaced with back-room negotiations. Mr. President, this is not the way policy should be made.

Last year we needed to pass several continuing resolutions—temporary funding measures—before we finally came to an agreement on spending levels for fiscal year 1996. We did not finish our appropriations work until April of this year. And that came after having to shut the Government down three times, which resulted in the additional expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

When faced with explaining why the Government spends hard-earned taxpayer dollars on any program or project, I believe that it must be able to pass the coffee shop test. That is to say, it must be defensible in a coffee shop in Fremont, North Platte, or O'Neill, NE, or any small town in the United States. After all it is their money we are spending. So at the very least, we as elected officials owe it to the people we represent to openly debate the merits of Government spending on the Senate floor.

I thought the Republican leadership had learned the lesson last year that getting our work done as legislators and representatives was the most important matter—not individual or political glory. And while this year we are not in the same situation of having a temporary funding measure—and a Government shutdown has been avoided—things are not that much different. I truly believe the American people have been shortchanged again.

Yes, I am glad the task is complete. And I am pleased, for the most part, with what I know is included in this funding legislation. But, Mr. President, I am concerned that the process—and perhaps this institution—has been slightly diminished. Diminished because the appearance and the reality is that our duty as legislators—and the interests of the American people—took a backseat to the interests of campaigning for reelection. During a time when we face an increasingly skeptical electorate, we can ill afford to continue this trend.

OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mrs. FRAHM. Mr. President, I want to take just a moment to explain my vote in opposition to the omnibus consolidated appropriations bill. To me, the title of this bill goes a long way in explaining why I am skeptical about its content. When Congress delivers an omnibus spending bill, taxpayers should grab for their wallet. I wish to commend the tremendous effort of

Chairman HATFIELD to bring together a bill that would satisfy the priorities of all of those involved. Indeed the chairman has been extremely generous to my State of Kansas. But I must protest a process and a final product that abdicates Congress' responsibilities to unselected officials who have no constitutional role in the power of the purse; a role relegated by Constitution solely to the Congress. I am speaking of President Clinton's Chief of Staff who sat in, with veto power over the deliberations of the house and Senate conferees.

I am at a loss to explain why those who maintain such an abiding commitment to reforming Congress and to cutting wasteful spending have cast their vote in support for this bill. If nothing else this bill represents business as usual. It is 16 pounds, 2,000 pages, and has no accompanying report, making it impossible to determine exactly where the money is going. Eight billion to jump start the war on drugs is just one example. What does that mean? To what programs will that large sum be directed? It sounds like a positive move, but it has no accountability. We shouldn't be making political statements of that magnitude with the taxpayers' money. As I have noted, this bill represents a total abdication of our constitutional responsibility. In short, it is a cop-out in our responsibility to the taxpayer.

I do not favor another Government shutdown. As Lieutenant Governor and secretary of administration with responsibility for the State employees of my State of Kansas, we were forced to furlough workers from their jobs, through no fault of their own because the President wanted to make political hay. Sadly, it was the Congress that received the blame. It seems that in Washington, if you lose the battle of the spin control, good policy and good Government don't matter. So cowed by the specter of another Government shutdown are Members of Congress that the political courage to get our job done, to make the tough calls and to provide a responsible spending package evaporated with the hint of misdirected public ire. Spin has once again won over responsible policy.

Senator after Senator has come to this Chamber to express their concern over the process that cobbled this bill together. The pork and largess included have been decried. But I don't see much willingness to confront the problem and fix it. That is what troubles me. This is not a good bill and Members know it. They have said so. I am saying so.

When I came to the U.S. Senate I pledged to the people of Kansas that I was prepared to make the tough calls. From my first vote, a vote to balance the budget and get the country's financial house in order, I have been committed to that pledge. So it is in keeping with my pledge that I cast my vote against this bill.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KASSEBAUM

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with Senator KASSEBAUM on both the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources and, I must say, that service together has always been, for me, a pleasure.

Senator KASSEBAUM has served on the Labor Committee from the 101st through the 104th Congress. In the 101st and the 102d she served as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities. During that period, we worked most closely and successfully together on matters such as the reauthorization of the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act in 1990, Library Services and Construction in 1990, and the Higher Education Act in 1992. We worked in the strong bipartisan fashion that has traditionally been the hallmark of the subcommittee.

In the 103d Congress Senator KASSEBAUM became the ranking member of the full Labor Committee, and we continued to work closely together on such important matters as Goals 2000 and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1994.

Most recently, I have been proud to work with her in her present capacity as chairman of the Labor Committee in this, the 104th Congress. Her Workforce Development Act provided a much-needed overhaul and consolidation of our job training programs, and it also contained a series of very strong and positive vocational and adult education provisions. I supported the legislation both in committee and on the Senate floor, and regret very much that the Senate bill did not prevail.

Similarly, Mr. President, we served together since the 97th Congress on the Committee on Foreign Relations. There, to my enormous regret, the tradition of bipartisanship is not quite as well entrenched, but partisan conflicts were never caused by Senator KASSEBAUM. She always conducted herself in the most rational, informed and moderate fashion.

I would add that, in her years on the committee, she developed a remarkable expertise regarding the continent and the countries of Africa and an accompanying—and admirable—dedication to the often neglected peoples of that continent. During those years she traveled often to Africa, came to know its geography, and developed relationships with its political and business leaders. I think it is fair to say that she was unrivaled as the Senate's expert on Africa and African issues.

In the years we have worked together on both committees, I can say without question that Nancy KASSEBAUM has always been thoughtful, considerate, and gracious. I can also say that she is tenacious and determined. But most of all, she brings all of those traits together in the most marvelous way. I

know that I am not alone in this assessment. Everyone in this Chamber knows that is the way it is with this gentlewoman from Kansas.

While I also will not be here next year, I know for sure that this body will not be the same without her principled and sensible approach to public policy. She will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PRYOR

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, the departure of our dear friend the junior senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] from the Senate will leave a void that will be hard to fill. His special qualities of modesty and quiet accomplishment are all too rare. I have always greatly appreciated his decency and courtesy and his true sense of compassion. He epitomizes the sense of comity and civility which to my mind should pervade the body politic.

I wish for the sake of the Senate and the Nation that Senator PRYOR could stay longer. But he leaves now with the fullest possible measure of respect and affection of his colleagues. I wish all the best for DAVID and Barbara Pryor in the years ahead, and want them to know that they will always have my warmest friendship and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NUNN

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, we who have the privilege of serving in this body soon find that we may not always be in agreement with friends and colleagues for whom we have high regard.

The senior Senator from Georgia (Mr. NUNN) is such a colleague. I have always found him to be a man of singular ability, rectitude and decency. He came here as a youthful successor to a legendary predecessor, Senator Richard B. Russell, and quickly established himself as a serious and studious Member who could and did thoroughly master the intricacies of national defense policy.

Senator NUNN's term of service coincided with the last two decades of the cold war, and he leaves his mark as one of the architects of U.S. defense policy during that trying epoch. I sometimes found myself in disagreement with his emphasis on large defense budgets, since I was primarily committed to the cause of arms control and restraint in the nuclear arms race. History seems to have demonstrated that it took a balance of the two views we represented to assure our national survival.

Senator NUNN and I not only shared a common preoccupation with the major international issues of the time, but we brought to the task one very basic common thread of experience which may have colored our responses, and that was the fact that we were among the few members of the Senate who had served in the U.S. Coast Guard. I served as an enlisted man on convoy duty in the North Atlantic in World